

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /008 R

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P 090926Z OCT 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT CAIRO PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 199803

FOLLOWING REPEAT BEIRUT 11926 SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC
AMMAN INFO JERUSALEM, JIDDA, KUWAIT, LONDON, TEL AVIV,
DIA OCTOBER 9, 1973: QUOTE

S E C R E T BEIRUT 11926

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR XF LE

SUBJ: LEBANESE PRESS AND PUBLIC REACTION TO ME HOSTILITIES

REF: AMMAN 5366

1. DESPITE INITIAL HOPE (WHICH WAS COMMON TO BROAD SEGMENT OF
LOCAL PRESS AND PUBLIC OPINION) THAT LIMITED SCOPE OF CONFLICT
THUS FAR SOMEHOW MEANS IT IS PRELUDE TO EARLY CONCLUSION OF
CEASEFIRE LEADING TO SOME SORT OF OVERALL PEACE SETTLEMENT
(BEIRUT 11896, WE ALSO NOTE ELEMENT OF ALMOST FATALISTIC REALISM
ON PART OF MANY PRESS COMMENTATORS HERE REGARDING LIKELY
RESULTS OF PROLONGED HOSTILITIES. EVEN LEFTIST BEIRUT PRESS --
NOTWITHSTANDING ITS LAVISH PRAISE OF SYRIAN AND EGYPTIAN COURAGE
AND INITIATIVE -- APPEARS UNDER FEW ILLUSIONS THAT EITHER
COUNTRY CAN EMERGE UNBEATEN IF FIGHTING SHOULD TURN OUT TO BE
PROTRACTED. GENERAL ATTITUDE RE THAT POSSIBILITY APPEARS ONE OF
RESIGNATION COMBINED WITH FEELING THAT AT LEAST ARABS WILL HAVE

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REGAINED SOME MEASURE OF SELF-RELIANCE, DIGNITY AND SELF-RESPECT.

2. AT SAME TIME, WE HAVE NOTED SURPRISINGLY LITTLE PRESS OR PUBLIC AGITATION HERE -- APART FROM INCORRIGIBLY ANTI-JORDANIAN FEDAYEEN PROPAGANDA MILL -- AGAINST ARAB STATES WHICH HAVE REMAINED ALOOF FROM CONFLICT THUS FAR (OR, FOR THAT MATTER, AGAINST USG). MUCH ATTENTION HAS BEEN PAID TO REPORTS OF ALGERIAN, LIBYAN, IRAQI, MOROCCAN AND EVEN TUNISIAN AID AND/OR INVOLVEMENT, BUT RELATIVELY LITTLE TO ROLES PLAYED THUS FAR BY JORDAN, SAUDI ARABIA, ETC. THIS ATTITUDE COULD CHANGE, OF COURSE AS FIGHTING DRAGS ON AND SITUATION OF SYRIAN-EGYPTIAN FORCES WORSENS, BUT FOR PRESENT LEBANESE PREOCCUPATION WITH COURSE OF HOSTILITIES (AND POTENTIAL DANGERS THEY POSE FOR LEBANON) HAS NOT INCLUDED ANY SIGNIFICANT CRITICISM OF OTHER ARAB GOVTS. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE NOTE THAT QADHAFI'S BITTER DIATRIBE AGAINST KING HUSSEIN RECEIVED HARDLY ANY PRESS-PLAY HERE OCT 8, ALTHOUGH REST OF HIS SPEECH WAS WIDELY REPORTED.

3. FOR AMMAN: AMBASSADOR BROWN FREE TO USE ANY PORTION OF OUR 11911 ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS AND PROTECTING SOURCES.
BUFFUM
UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WAR, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE199803
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O:G. TOHIE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS TWOHIE
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731043/aaaabfos.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: AMMAN 5366
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02-Jan-2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <04-Jan-2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE PRESS AND PUBLIC REACTION TO ME HOSTILITIES
TAGS: PFOR, XF, LE
To: CAIRO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005